

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
Cc: Acevedo, Janie[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]
From: Kluesner, Dave
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 7:08:32 PM
Subject: draft talkers for Chris Ruhl.....let's discuss

August 20 Durango Public Meeting Talking Points – Area Commander

INTRO

Chris Ruhl, Area Commander, overseeing EPA's work in three EPA regions impacted by the spill at Gold King Mine. My job is to ensuring around the clock strategic management over all Unified Incident Command Posts involved with the response, those command posts located here in Durango, in Silverton and in Farmington, New Mexico.

EPA is committed to working closely, over the long term, with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, respond to concerns and to evaluate impacts to water contaminated by the spill.

I would like to thank.....

What's Happening Now in Colorado:

- **EPA is capturing and treating water that is coming out of the Gold King Mine at approximately 544 gallons per minute. We are using a system of impoundments to treat the water before being discharged to Cement Creek.**
- **Through a voluntary well water testing program, the EPA is conducting private well water sampling as needed and calling those residents sampled to provide the sample results. To-date EPA has tested over 100 private drinking water wells here in Colorado, with approximately X more wells being scheduled for testing. We have had a small number of exceedances of drinking water standards. It is unclear if the exceedances were caused by the mine release. In the small number of cases where we have detected an exceedance of a drinking water standard, we**

investigate, re-test, and provide alternate water to the resident where needed.

- **We have delivered more than 200,000 gallons of water to residents here in Colorado to-date.**
- **We have delivered more than 140,000 gallons of water for livestock and agricultural use here in Colorado to-date.**
- **All public drinking water systems here in Colorado are in operation.**
- **EPA is continuing to assess properties, as needed, and identifying mitigation needs. We have a relatively small number of properties, between 4 and 8, targeted for sediment removal.**
- **We've collected surface water and sediment samples in the Upper Animas to assess conditions.**
- **We are providing the public with claims forms at the relief center here in Durango and are working to make the claims forms widely available to the public.**
- **We are working closely with the media to provide daily media updates with the latest information. Those updates are available on the EPA's Gold King Mine website.**
- **We have a call center where the public can get information and be directed to the appropriate person or organization for assistance. That number is 844-607-9700.**
- **We are also working closely with local, state and federal elected officials to provide up-to-date information on what we're doing, what they can expect next and how to improve our response work.**
- **We're here for the long term.....**

What's Happening Next in Colorado

- **One additional retention pond is being added to the treatment**

system to allow crews to manage the solids that have settled out to date. This pond will allow the treatment system to maintain efficiency as the crews are managing the existing ponds.

- A water treatment system will be installed on site as part of short-term actions for water treatment. Planning is in place for a treatment solution that includes pipes to allow the mine water to flow to a lower mine site with a better location for water treatment to continue into the fall.**
- Long-term treatment needs and options are being evaluated.**

Administrator's talkers:

- As water exits the mine, the water flows into a system of four treatment ponds which provide retention time to allow the addition of lime to neutralize the pH. Substances to treat water are added during the process to settle the metals to the bottom of the retention ponds.**
- EPA teams continue to collect water samples in the Animas River and in shallow, domestic, private wells adjacent to the river. EPA, state, and local response teams continue to evaluate water quality in shallow domestic wells adjacent to the Animas River.**